ATLAS COMICS ™

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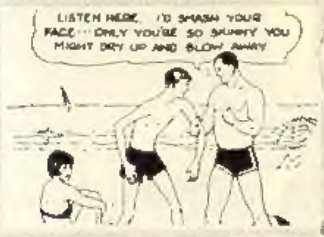
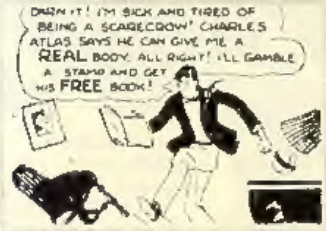
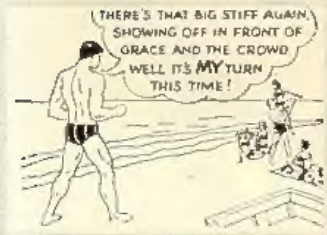
25c 43383 NO. 3 JULY

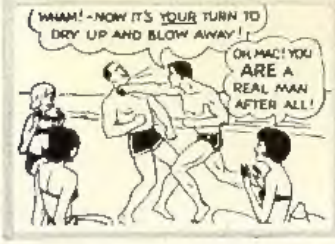
JOHN TARGITT... MAN-STALKER

THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC'









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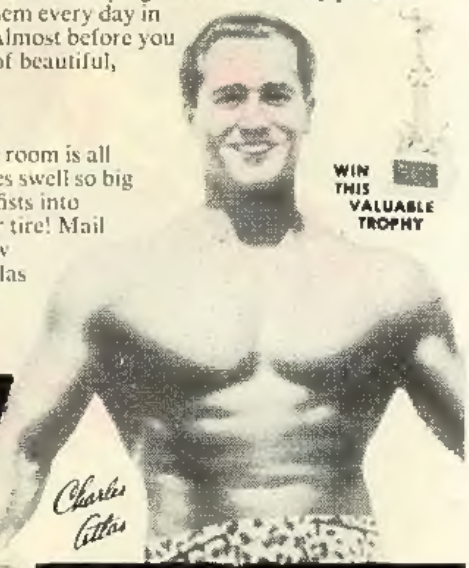

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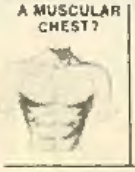
A MUSCULAR CHEST?



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JOHN TARGITT...
MAN-STALKER

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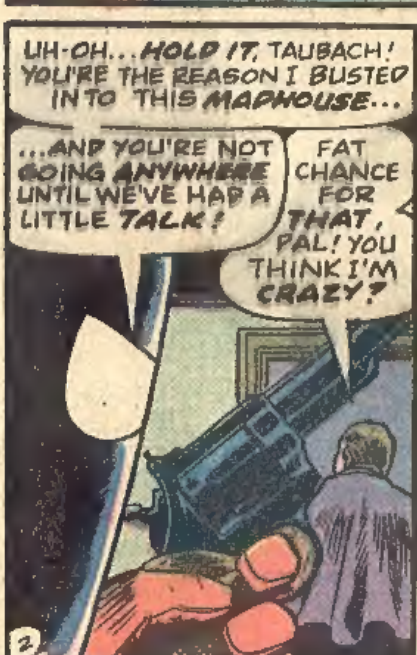
SURE IT'S POSSIBLE, FELLA. IT'S HAPPENING, ISN'T IT?
URRMPH!

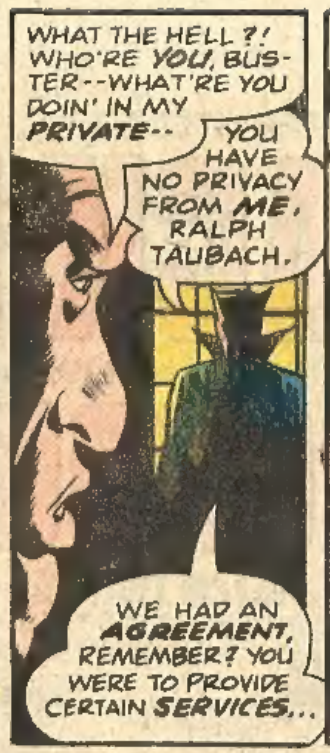
WHAT'S WRONG, BOYS --?

TONGUE-TIED?
THAT GUY'S UNBELIEVABLE! HE'S LIKE A ONE-MAN BLITZ! NO WAY I'M STICKING AROUND HERE...!


UH-OH... HOLD IT, TAUBACH! YOU'RE THE REASON I BUSTED INTO THIS MADHOUSE...
...AND YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL WE'VE HAD A LITTLE TALK!
FAT CHANCE FOR THAT, PAL! YOU THINK I'M CRAZY?

YOU WANNA TALK TO ME... BREAK DOWN THE DOOR!
SLAM!

HE'LL TRY IT, TOO... BUT THIS DOOR'S MADE WITH REINFORCED STEEL!
I ALWAYS KNEW I MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE A GETAWAY SOMEDAY... AND EVERY LITTLE OBSTACLE HELPS!
NOBODY CAN CALL RALPH TAUBACH A FOOL... NO, SIR!



...AND YOUR LIFE IS...FORFEIT!

PROFESSOR DEATH!! NO... NOOOOO!

BA DOOM!

AICONDO WILL TURN YOU INTO A DEADLY FIGHTING MACHINE.

BECOME A REGISTERED

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THE DEADLIEST MEN ALIVE ARE

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Aicondo is not a sport. It is a deadly self-defense system using the best of Karate, Kung-Fu, Judo and Aikido. It is a razor-sharp system of action response. It is the final answer to violence in the streets . . . violence by the thief, by the thrill seeker, by the bully; violence that can strike you down and touch the lives of those you love. Aicondo has the answer to any hostile attack whether by fist or foot, open-hand or weapon. Aicondo is the combat system that can save your life and change it for the better.

Two Experts Train You

Your body is a masterpiece machine. With training it becomes a weapon of fantastic speed, stamina and skill. Step by step in action photos Aicondo experts teach you every move and parry tailored for instant victory. You learn to laugh off verbal abuse. You learn to remain cool until hostile contact is made. Then and only then will you render your attacker helpless with minimum physical force. Dedication to Aicondo will pay off in power, agility, self-reliance and pride.

Select a Trusted Friend

Share your Aicondo Training with a reliable friend. Together you will achieve the body tone that sets the stage for mastery. You can trade off attack and defense to attain razor-sharp combat response. Men who have shared Aicondo training develop bonds that stay strong long after the rank of First Degree Black Belt has been earned.

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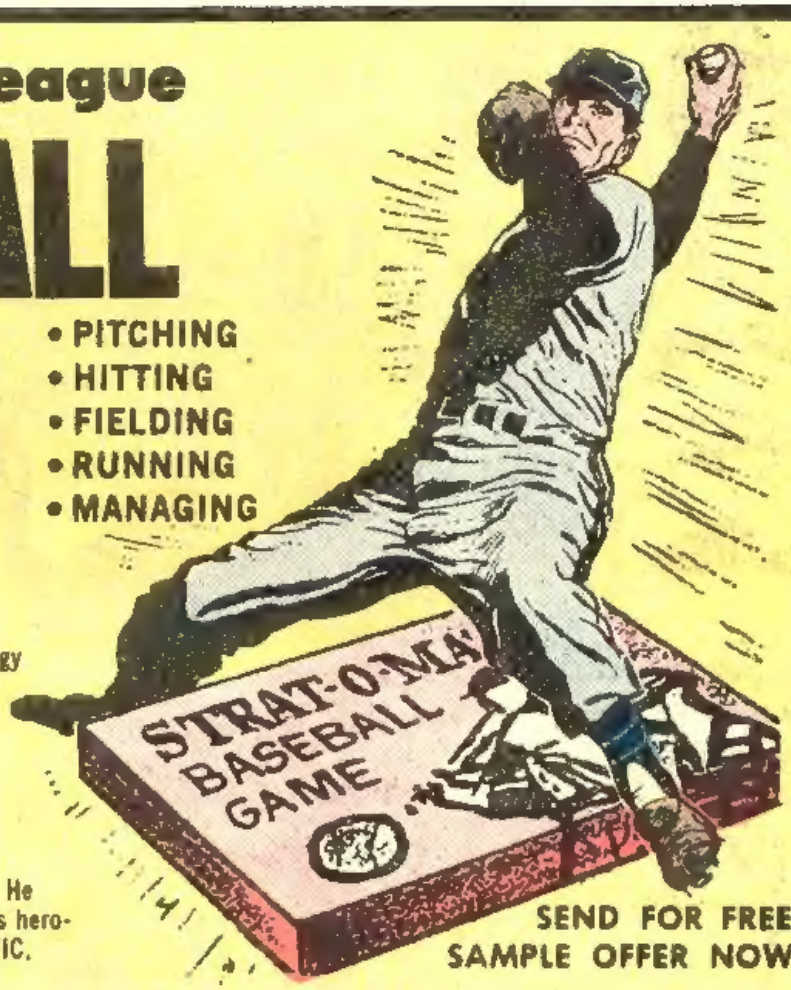

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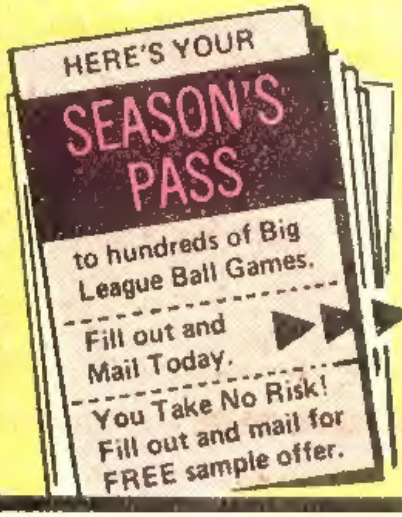

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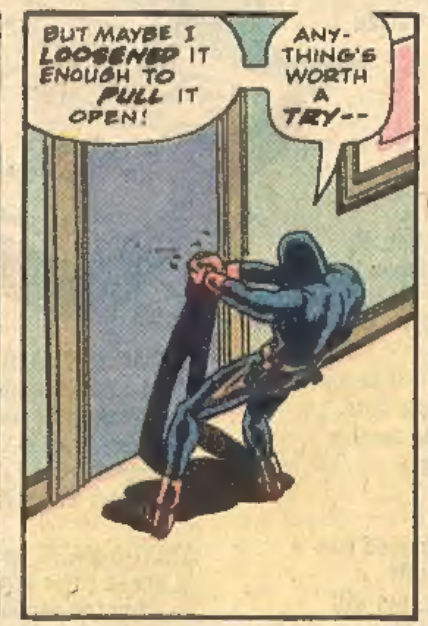
City.....*State*.....*Zip*.....

THE MAN SAID "BREAK DOWN" THE DOOR--BUT I KNOW HOW MUCH OF A CHANCE I HAVE OF THAT---
BUT SHOOTING THE LOCK OFF--WELL IT'S WORTH A TRY!

DAMN--EVEN THESE MAGNUM .357 BULLETS WON'T PIERCE IT!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BUT THEY HAVE TO!

NO USE! I CAN'T BLAST THE DAMN THING LOOSE--
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
CLICK
CLICK

NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT I'M AS SHORT ON AMMO---
--AS THE PRESIDENT SAYS THE NATION IS ON GASOLINE!

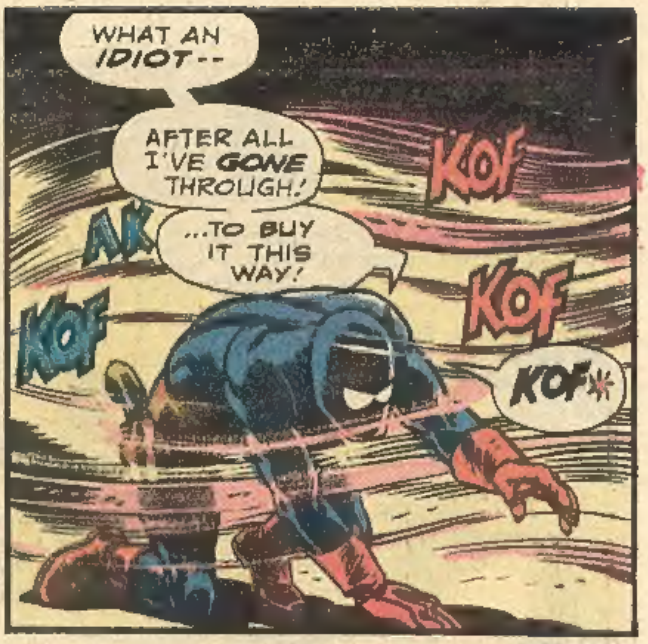

BUT MAYBE I LOOSENED IT ENOUGH TO PULL IT OPEN!
ANYTHING'S WORTH A TRY--

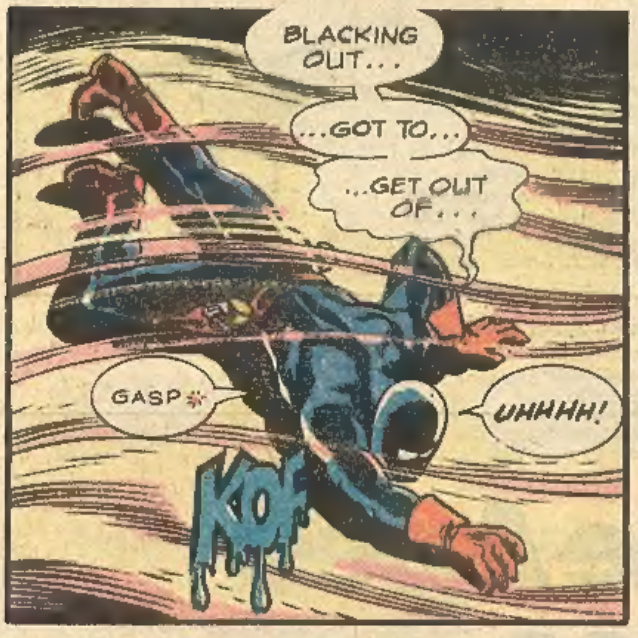
WHAT THE--I WASTE A WEEK'S SUPPLY OF SHELLS TRYING TO GET IN--
--AND SOMEBODY OPENS THE DOOR LIKE I'M A PREFERRED CUSTOMER!
SNIK!
SCREEEEE

NO DOOR BUNNY, THOUGH! BUT AT LEAST I'M INSIDE!
NOW THERE'RE ONLY TWO QUESTIONS LEFT --WHO LET ME IN HERE--AND WHY!?

GAS!!
THAT ANSWERS THE WHY--BUT I MAY NOT LIVE TO FIND OUT THE WHO!!

LIKE A DAMN FOOL, I WALKED INTO A TRAP!
KOF
KOF
KOF


WHAT AN IDIOT--
AFTER ALL I'VE GONE THROUGH!
...TO BUY IT THIS WAY!
KOF
KOF
KOF
KOF*


BLACKING OUT...
...GOT TO...
...GET OUT OF...
GASP*
UHHHH!
KOF

LET THIS BE A WARNING TO THE WORLD! NO MAN-- NOT THE F.B.I., C.I.A. OR THE ENTIRE UNDERWORLD ITSELF CAN HALT THE RISE OF...

THE KINGDOM OF PROFESSOR DEATH!
MOOOAAANN!

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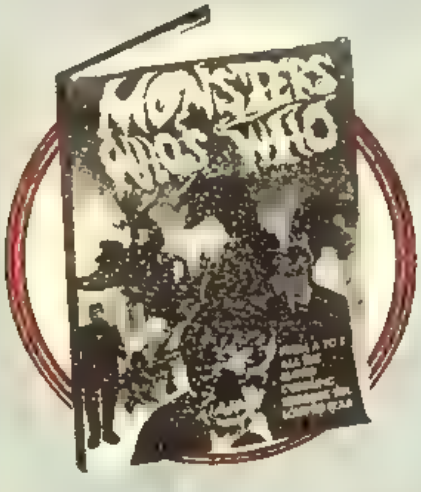

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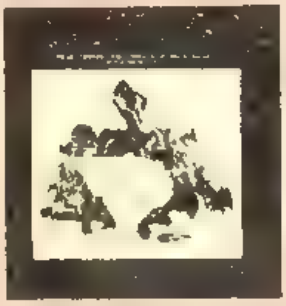
RARE

The Golden Voyage of Sinbad

MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK



An amazing record imported from England! The original motion picture soundtrack of The Golden Voyage of Sinbad in full-bodied stereo.

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BARBARELLA lives in this exclusive collector's item classic album. Features original music from the film. Only **$12.50 + $1.00** postage. Specify **#802**

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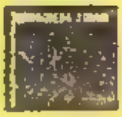

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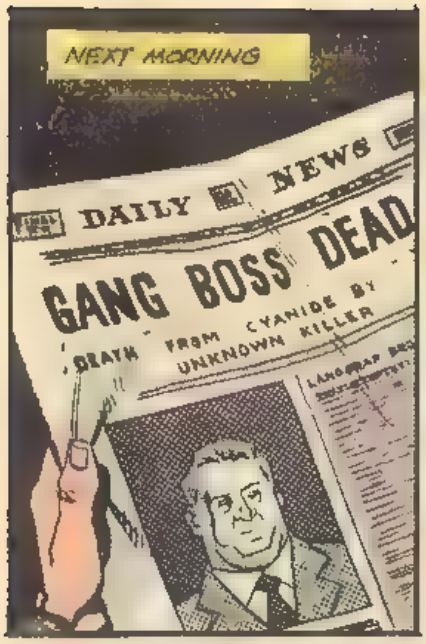
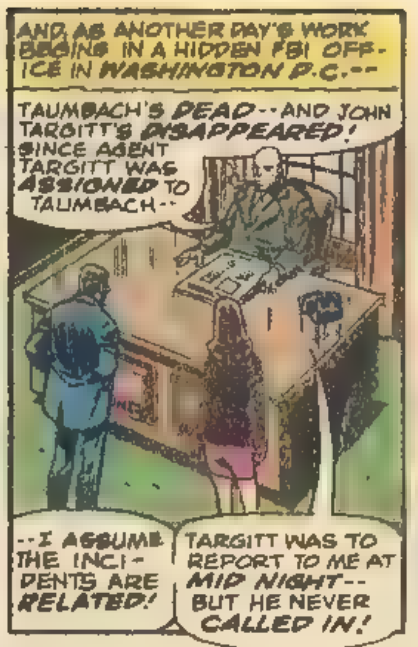
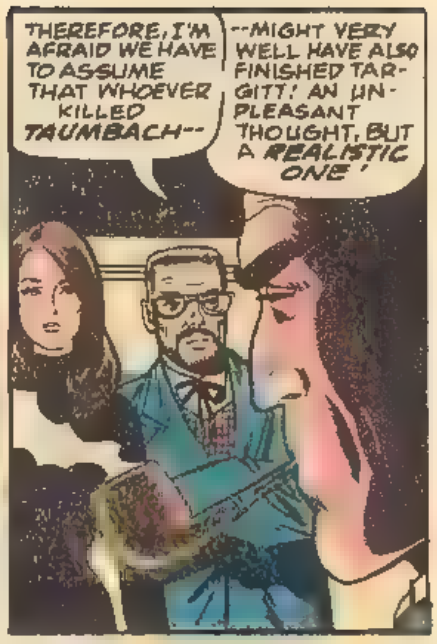
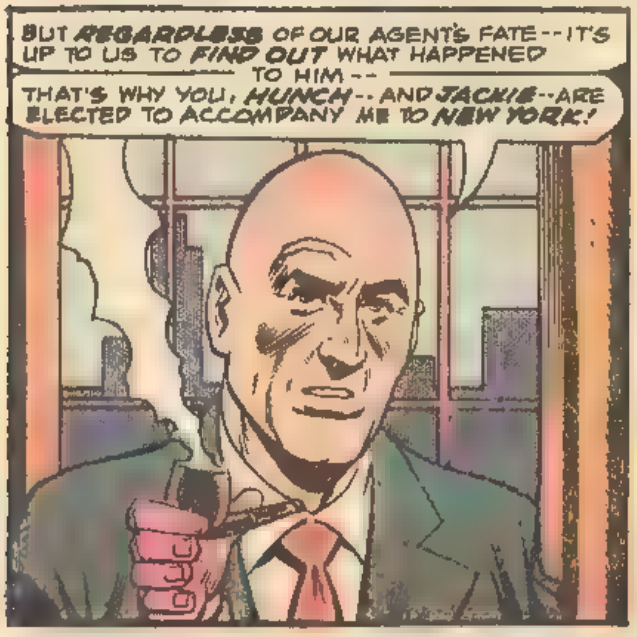
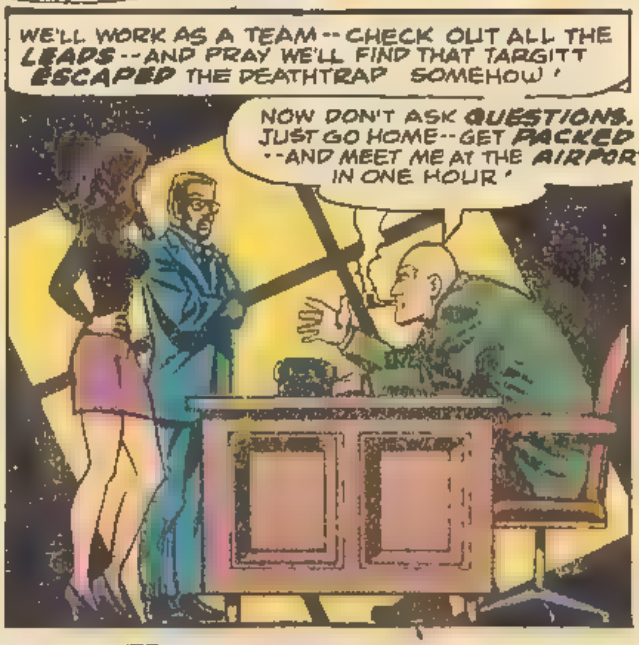
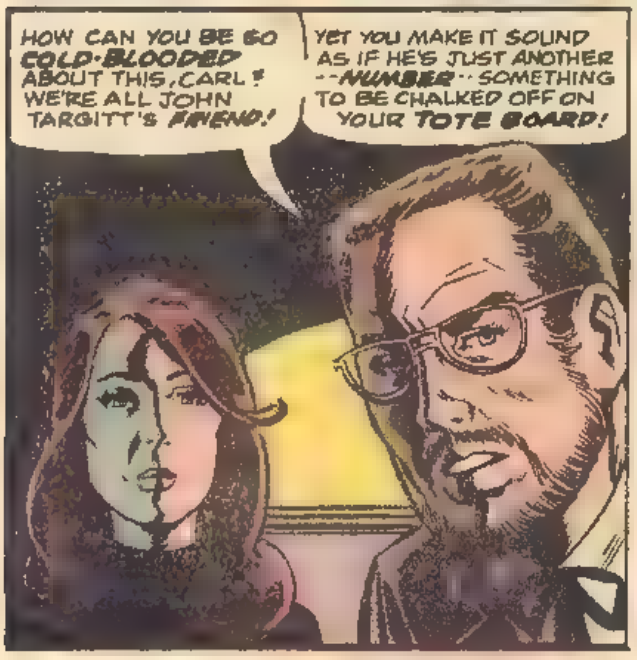

NEXT MORNING
DAILY NEWS
GANG BOSS DEAD
DEATH FROM CYANIDE BY UNKNOWN KILLER

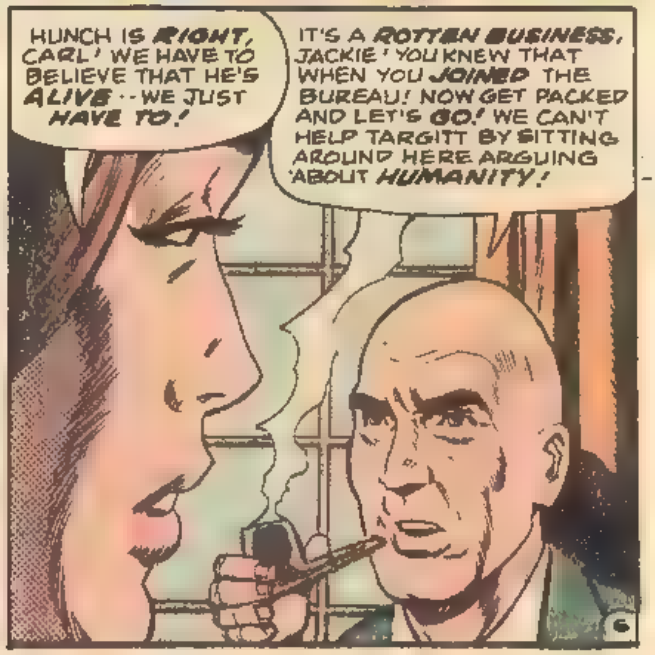

AND AS ANOTHER DAY'S WORK BEGINS IN A HIDDEN FBI OFFICE IN WASHINGTON D.C.--
TAUMBACH'S DEAD--AND JOHN TARGITT'S DISAPPEARED! SINCE AGENT TARGITT WAS ASSIGNED TO TAUMBACH--
--I ASSUME THE INCIDENTS ARE RELATED!
TARGITT WAS TO REPORT TO ME AT MID NIGHT--BUT HE NEVER CALLED IN!


THEREFORE, I'M AFRAID WE HAVE TO ASSUME THAT WHOEVER KILLED TAUMBACH--
--MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE ALSO FINISHED TARGITT! AN UNPLEASANT THOUGHT, BUT A REALISTIC ONE!


BUT REGARDLESS OF OUR AGENT'S FATE--IT'S UP TO US TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM--
THAT'S WHY YOU, HUNCH--AND JACKIE--ARE ELECTED TO ACCOMPANY ME TO NEW YORK!


WE'LL WORK AS A TEAM--CHECK OUT ALL THE LEADS--AND PRAY WE'LL FIND THAT TARGITT ESCAPED THE DEATHTRAP SOMEHOW!
NOW DON'T ASK QUESTIONS. JUST GO HOME--GET PACKED--AND MEET ME AT THE AIRPORT IN ONE HOUR!


HOW CAN YOU BE SO COLD-BLOODED ABOUT THIS, CARL? WE'RE ALL JOHN TARGITT'S FRIEND!
YET YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS IF HE'S JUST ANOTHER--NUMBER--SOMETHING TO BE CHALKED OFF ON YOUR TOTE BOARD!


HUNCH IS RIGHT, CARL! WE HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT HE'S ALIVE--WE JUST HAVE TO!
IT'S A ROTTEN BUSINESS, JACKIE! YOU KNEW THAT WHEN YOU JOINED THE BUREAU! NOW GET PACKED AND LET'S GO! WE CAN'T HELP TARGITT BY SITTING AROUND HERE ARGUING ABOUT HUMANITY!

FOUR HOURS LATER, IN A SLEAZY GREENWICH VILLAGE DINER--

GIMME SOME EGGS AND A HOT CUP OF COFFEE, HONEY--AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!

YESSIR! IT'S EASY TO SEE YOU'RE A REAL GENTLEMAN--A DUDE WITH REAL CLASS!

SAVE THE LIP FOR YOUR REGULARS, SWEETIE! JUST BRING ME THE CHOW--

--AND IF YOU'RE LUCKY, MAYBE I WON'T MESS UP YOUR PRETTY FACE!

SOMEBODY'S FACE IS GONNA GET MESSED UP ALL RIGHT, TAUMBACH--BUT IT'S NOT GONNA BE THE LADY'S!

SLAW!

UNLESS YOU GET REAL COOPERATIVE--YOUR KISSER'S GONNA LOOK A LOT WORSE THAN IT DID IN YOUR APARTMENT LAST NIGHT WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH IT!

BUT SINCE WHAT YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME HAS TO BE IN PRIVATE--

UUNNHHH!

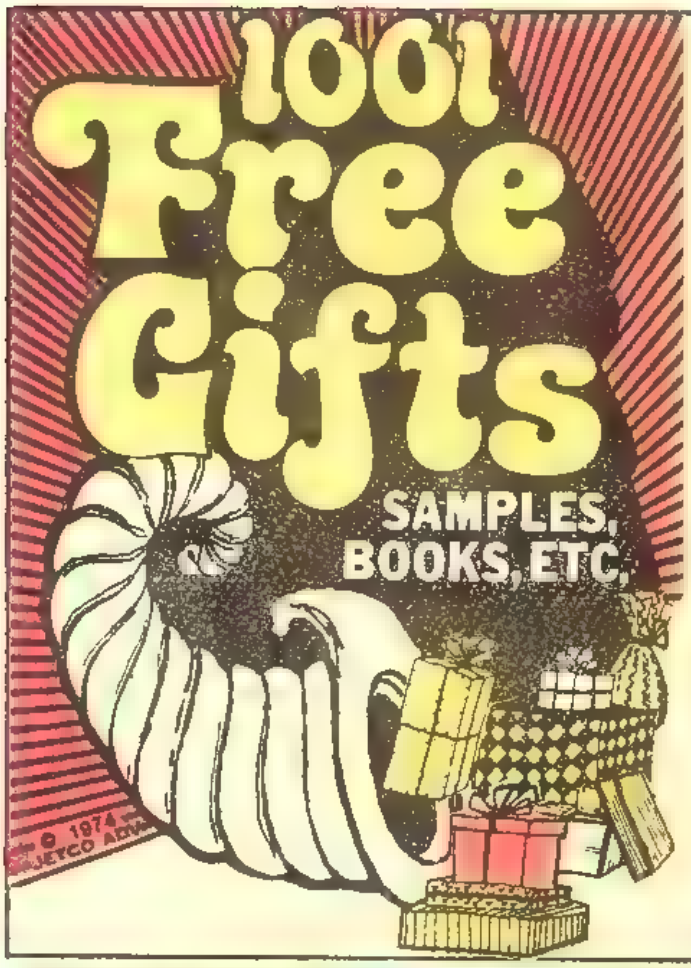
--WHAT SAY WE TALK IT OVER OUTSIDE!

THAT'S A GOOD BOY! I'D HATE TO HAVE TO PAY FOR BUSTING UP THIS FIRST RATE JOINT!

SO MOVE YOUR FANNY, HOOD--AND START EXERCISING YOUR TONGUE! IT'S GONNA BE DOING A LOT OF WAGGIN' WHEN I GET YOU INTO THE ALLEY!

HEY, CREEP! I ALREADY GOT HIS BREAKFAST ON--

--AND HE DIDN'T PAY THE TAB! YOU GONNA BRING HIM BACK TO SQUARE UP--OR DO I CALL THE LAW DOGS?!



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Thousands packed, ready to mail 'grab-bag' style. Send your $1 today You may find:

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Rush me your SURPRISE packet I enclose $1 which is refundable if I am not completely satisfied:

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

INFLATABLE WATER POLO SET

A Wonder World Exclusive. Fully inflatable water polo goal and ball ready to use anywhere from bathtub to swimming pool to the old swimming hole! Brightly colored plastic inflates in minutes. Fold it up and take it home after play. Turns an ordinary swim with friends into a circus of laughter and good clean water fun! Incredibly priced at

No. 209 **Only $1.95**

HORROR HAND

Who's s it? The mummy's? The Exorcist? The severed horrible hand of someone whose "reach" was longer than his grasp? Realistic looking, molded of flesh-like material, makes a terrifying and weird burst of fun anywhere it's used. Blood-stained wrist enhances effect. Size of adult human hand.

No. 204 **Only $1.50**

BIRD CAGE CHIMES

Hang on porch or window and enjoy the happy sounds that come with every breeze. The slightest touch produces the most unimaginably delightful musical ring of chimes. Serene, relaxing bird cage design cheers up everyone who sees it.

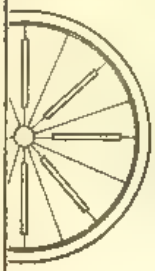
No. 208 **Only $1.95**

MINI BRASS WHISTLE

Small enough to hang comfortably around neck yet this shiny brass super whistle emits a loud shrill sound that would scare away an army of would be attackers. Ideal for sports, games or directing "traffic" just for fun.

No. 205 **Only $1.25**

BIKE SPOKE DECORATORS



Set of assorted super brite color snap-on in-seconds, spoke decorators for your bike. As wheels spin, they whirl into a blaze of color. Sold in stores as high as $1.49 now only

No. 214 **$1.00**

MAMMOTH BASKETBALL

Inflates to a giant 68" circumference. Show your friends how you can handle the "big shots". Great fun in backyard, beach or in the house. Makes a great mobile for basketball player's room. Made of tough vinyl for many hours of play. Inflate in minutes without pump.

Only $1.95 No. 210

MAGNETIC THERMOMETER

Amazing only 1¾" wide with magnetic back goes anywhere you do. Great on handlebars of bikes, attaches to any metal surface. Take it anywhere, put it outside your window, and be first to know what morning temperature is.

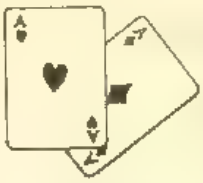
Only $1.00 No. 206

GIANT DICE

Quality, jumbo dice. The kind they use in the gambling capitals of the world. A fun way to play your favorite game requiring dice. Sturdy, heavy feel of professional dice. Not available in stores.

No. 211 **Only $1.00 pair**

GIANT DECK OF CARDS



5" x 7". Great for amateur magicians, jokesters or pranksters for anyone who wants to make "a big deal".

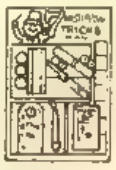
No. 201 **Only $2.95**

SKULL MUG

The next time you are urged to "drink your milk" whip out our skull mug. A beautifully detailed ghost white ceramic mug shaped like a human skull. Decorative, fun a great gift for horror fans.

No. 212 **$1.95**

MAGIC TRICKS



Seven all time sure-fire, easy to perform mystifiers. Sturdy well made parts with stage look.

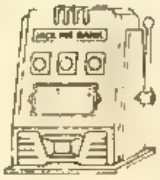
No. 202 **7 Tricks Only $1.00**

POCKET LITE

Same type used by agents. Small, but super bright fits in pocket or purse dependable roto-switch uses two penlite batteries. Less than 4" long.

No. 207 **Only $1.00**

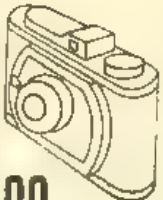
JACK-POT BANK



Saving is a "sure thing" with this replica of Las Vegas style "one arm bandit". Pull the arm and try for a winner! Not for gambling.

No. 203 **Only $2.50**

TRICK CAMERA



This one's a real "cooler"! Grab your pal and tell him you want a "close up" shot of him for your family album. Camera is so authentic looking he'll never suspect. Push the button and bang out pops a long snake out of the lens. Laffs like crazy when your friend reddens with a ruptured ego. Great for family parties too.

No. 212 **Only $1.00**

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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How Many	Item Number Only	Total Price

Send check or money order. No C.O.D. Canadian & Foreign orders add $1.00. Use any extra paper if needed. Print your order with ink pen.

Add Handling 35¢

Total Enclosed

Print Name

Address Apt #

City State Zip Code

OKAY, TAUMBACH -- SPILL IT -- LIKE YOU WERE IN THE FINAL ROUND OF NAME THAT TUNE!

YOU SET ME UP LAST NIGHT! WHO PUT YOU UP TO IT -- AND WHY?!

COME ON, CLOWN! THIS ISN'T RINGLING BROS. AND I DON'T EVEN LAUGH AT EMMETT KELLY!

OKAY, I DON'T WANT NO TROUBLE WITH THE LAW! IT WAS THIS CREEP NAMED PROF. DEATH!

IT'S YOU HE'S AFTER! HE HAD ME FAKE MY WASTING LAST NIGHT -- PAID ME -- THEN I WAS SUPPOSED TO SKIP THE COUNTRY!

I GOT A TICKET FOR A FLIGHT TO RIO THIS AFTERNOON! BUT I SWEAR -- THAT'S ALL I KNOW!

HE THREATENED TO REALLY KNOCK ME OFF IF I DIDN'T DO WHAT HE SAID!

PROFESSOR DEATH -- I SEEM TO -- REMEMBER --

-- THE GAS! HE WAS STANDING OVER ME -- THREATENING ME --

GETTING -- DIZZY AGAIN -- JUST LIKE -- LAST NIGHT!

YOU -- YOU'RE IN -- WITH -- HIM! MUST'VE HAD A SHOT OF CYANIDE -- HIDDEN ON YOU SOMEWHERE!

EVERYTHING -- SPINNING -- GOING -- DARK!

LOSING -- CONSCIOUSNESS! CAN'T STAY ON MY -- FEET -- !

OF COURSE YOU CAN'T, TARGITT! AND YOU WON'T EVEN STAND ON 'EM AGAIN!

A SIMPLE SHOT OF CYANIDE FROM MY TIE CLASP, AND THE MIGHTY JOHN TARGITT CASHES IN!

A COP'S A COP -- EVEN IN A NUTTY COSTUME! AND ONE OF 'EM DIES JUST AS EASY AS ANOTHER!

CLANG!

WRONG, MR TAUMBACH! BUT THEN, NO TWO-BIT MOBSTER FIGURES ON A GREASY-SPOON HASH SLINGER BEING AN AGENT FOR THE FBI!

JOHN...

JOHN TARGITT!

CAN YOU HEAR ME, JOHN?! PLEASE -- ANSWER ME!

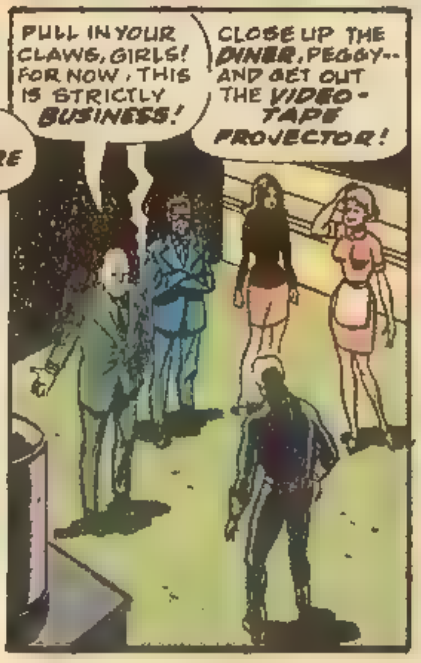
IT'S ME, JOHN, PEGGY! CAN YOU SEE ME? CAN YOU HEAR WHAT I'M SAYING?

OKAY-- YEAH! EVERYTHING'S A LITTLE HAZY -- BUT I'M READING YOU! WHERE AM I?
IN BACK OF THE DINER! I DRAGGED YOU HERE AND CALLED YOUR EMPLOYERS!

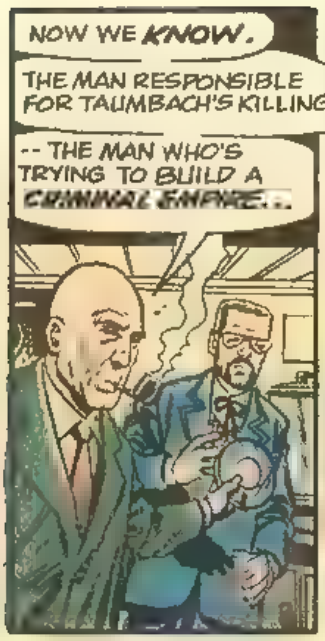
YOU WHAT?!

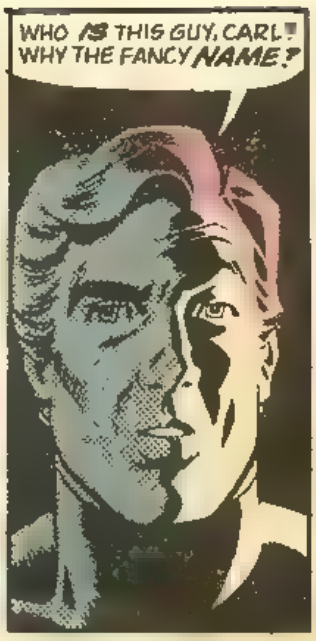
SHE FOUND YOUR I.D. CARD, JOHN-- AND WE CAME RUNNING!
YOU GAVE US A BAD SCARE, TARGITT! WE THOUGHT YOU'D FINALLY BOUGHT IT!

AND YOU MIGHT HAVE, IF AGENT BREWER HERE HADN'T RECOGNIZED YOU!
ALL IN THE LINE OF DUTY, I ASSURE YOU!
OH, I'M REALLY ASSURED!


PULL IN YOUR CLAWS, GIRLS! FOR NOW, THIS IS STRICTLY BUSINESS!
CLOSE UP THE DINER, PEGGY-- AND GET OUT THE VIDEO-TAPE PROJECTOR!

WE'RE SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR WITH THIS PROFESSOR DEATH CHARACTER, TARGITT--
--AND WE'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE!





PROFESSOR HANNIBAL BURNS, ALIAS PROFESSOR DEATH, BORN 1944, MUNICH, GERMANY, ADOPTED BY ANDREW BURNS, COLONEL U.S. ARMY...

IN LATE OCT., 1973, PROFESSOR BURNS WAS CONNECTED WITH THE EXETER RESEARCH CORPORATION, A FEDERALLY-FINANCED THINK-TANK LOCATED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE EXACT NATURE OF PROFESSOR BURNS EXPERIMENTS WAS LOST, BUT IT IS KNOWN HE WAS WORKING WITH A FORM OF NERVE GAS KNOWN AS DETHX-13!

ON OCTOBER 23, 1973, THESE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN BY THE SECURITY CAMERA WHICH MONITORS ALL LAB WORK...

PROFESSOR BURNS WAS COMPLETING SOME DELICATE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS, WHEN A BEAKER CONTAINING DETHX-13 AND ANOTHER, HIGHLY VOLATILE COMPOUND WAS KNOCKED TO THE GROUND...

...RESULTING IN AN EXPLOSION!

"THE SECURITY GUARD ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER THE EXPLOSION, TO FIND THE ROOM A SHAMBLES, AND PROFESSOR BURNS APPARENTLY..."

DEAD! HE'S GOTTA BE! NOBODY CAN SURVIVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!

BUT PROFESSOR BURNS HAD SURVIVED. INDEED, HE WAS A MAN TRANSFORMED. BATHED IN CHEMICALS, DRENCHED IN THE NERVE-GAS DETHX-13, HANNIBAL BURNS HAD CHANGED--BOTH PHYSICALLY."

PROFESSOR BURNS! YOU'RE --URRKKK!

"...AND MENTALLY. STRANGLING THE GUARD, BURNS STOLE THE MAN'S CLOTHES AND VANISHED. HE HAS SINCE SURFACED AS THE HEAD OF A RAPIDLY-GROWING CRIME-RING..."

AND LAST NIGHT WAS THE FIRST TIME "PROFESSOR DEATH" STEPPED OUT INTO THE OPEN!

THIS IS INCREDIBLE!

QUITE! THE MAN IS PATENTLY MAD... AND AS DANGEROUS AS AN ATOMIC BOMB!

YOU REALIZE NOW WHAT KILLED TAUMBACH, DON'T YOU?

DEATH'S NERVE GAS -- DETHX-13!

HE'S RENAMED IT DEATH-13... AND WITH IT, HE CAN BECOME THE LORD OF CRIME!

IN CASE YOU HADN'T GUESSED...

THANKFULLY, THOUGH, WE "CONVINCED" RALPH, HERE, OF THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS. HE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO TELL US WHERE PROFESSOR DEATH IS HOLED UP!

IT'S YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT!

JUST A MINUTE, CARL! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THE PROF?! TICKLE HIM INTO SUBMISSION? I DON'T HAVE MY GUNS AND I STILL FEEL A LITTLE WEIRD FROM THAT GAS. I DO THINK MY HELMET FILTERED OUT MOST OF IT. BUT I STILL FEEL... CHANGED SOMEHOW!

AH, YOU WON'T NEED GUNS, JOHN! THEY AREN'T THE ANSWER WITH A NUT LIKE PROF. DEATH! WITH THESE "SERVO-MECHANISMS" AND BULLET PROOF COSTUME I GOT FROM THE TRI-PONT CORP., YOU'RE GOING TO COME ON LIKE A SHERMAN TANK!

WHOA, GANG! WHOA -- DON'T I GET TIME TO PRACTICE WITH THESE GOODIES A BIT?

SORRY, JOHN, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO GET MOVING. I JUST HOPE WERE NOT ALREADY TOO LATE!

TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER, AT A BOAT BASIN ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE...

IT'S GONNA *WORK*, PROFESSOR. IT'S A *CINCH!* IT CAN'T *LOSE!*

CONTROL YOUR *ENTHUSIASM*, BORDEN. I ASSURE YOU, IN THIS LIFE *NOTHING* IS ASSURED!

AS THE SAYING GOES, MAN CAN BE CERTAIN OF ONLY *TWO THINGS!*

...DEATH AND *TAXES!* AND, GENTLEMEN...

...*I* AM *DEATH!*

BINGO! TAUBACH'S INFORMATION *PANNED OUT!* THAT'S *PROFESSOR DEATH...*

"...AND THOSE MUST BE HIS *MERRY MEN!*"

I ALREADY HAVE CONTROL OF 54% OF THIS CITY'S *UNDERWORLD*--BUT NATURALLY, THAT'S NOT *QUITE* ENOUGH!

TO GAIN POWER OVER THE REMAINING 46%, WE WILL PROCEED WITH *PROJECT DEATH'S HEAD...*

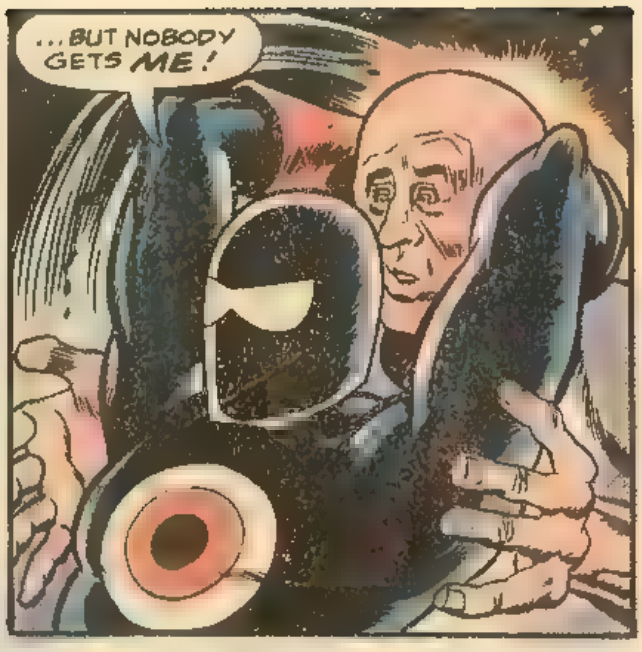
BUT FIRST...

JONATHAN! GET TARGITT!

WHAT...

DON'T *WORRY* PROFESSOR...I'VE *GOT HIM!*

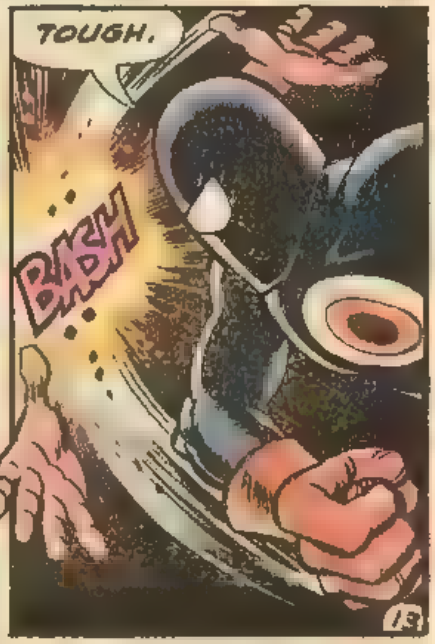
PROFESSOR WANTS TA SPEAK WIT YA, BUDDY.
WHAT THE PROFESSOR WANTS, HE GETS!
...FEEL...STRANGE ...STRONGER!
DEATH COMES TO EVERYONE, BIG BOY...

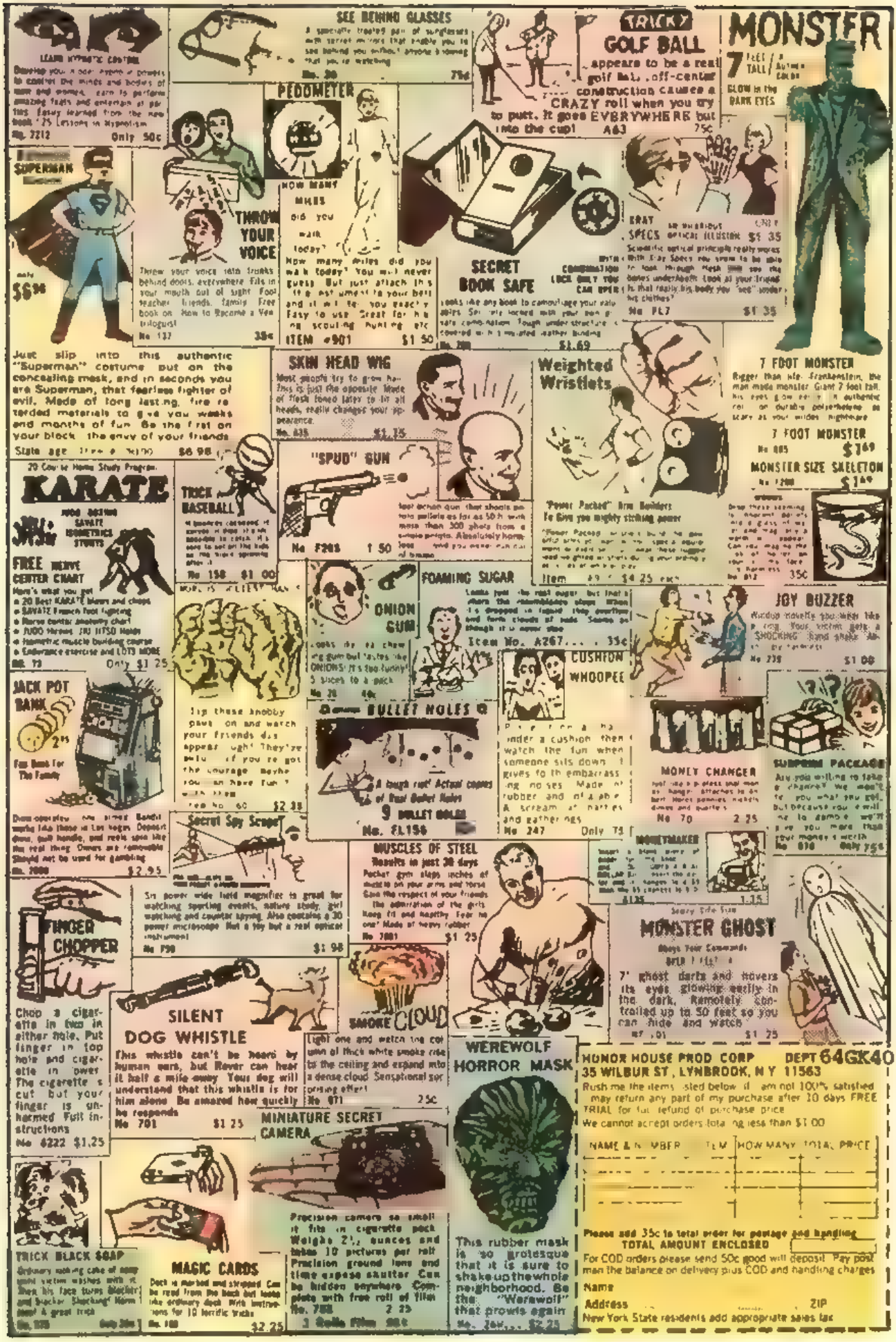

...BUT NOBODY GETS ME!

WHUMP!

PROFESSOR WON'T LIKE THIS, MISTER!

HE'S GONNA GET MAD! ...MAYBE BLAME ME!
SPLAT


TOUGH.
BUSH BUSH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Only 50c
SEE BEHIND GLASSES
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HOW MANY MILES did you walk today?
ITEM #901 $1 50
TRICK GOLF BALL
appears to be a real golf ball, off-center construction causes a CRAZY roll when you try to putt. It goes EVERYWHERE but into the cup! A63 75c
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GLOW in the DARK EYES
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Just slip into this authentic "Superman" costume out on the concealing mask, and in seconds you are Superman, that fearless fighter of evil. Made of long lasting, fire retarded materials to give you weeks and months of fun. Be the first on your block, the envy of your friends.
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Bigger than life. Frankenstein, the man made monster. Giant 7 foot tall, his eyes glow eerily in authentic red on durable polyethylene. As scary as your wildest nightmare
7 FOOT MONSTER
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This whistle can't be heard by human ears, but Rover can hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds
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7' ghost darts and hovers its eyes glowing eerily in the dark. Remotely controlled up to 50 feet so you can hide and watch
$1 25
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This rubber mask is so grotesque that it is sure to shake up the whole neighborhood. Be the "Werewolf" that prowls again
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Precision camera so small it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2½ ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time expose shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film
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MAGIC CARDS
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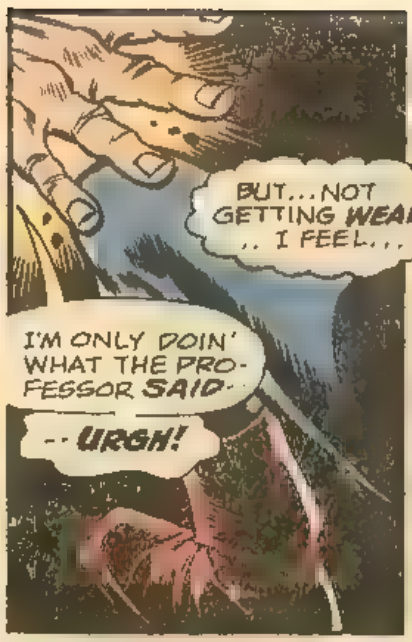
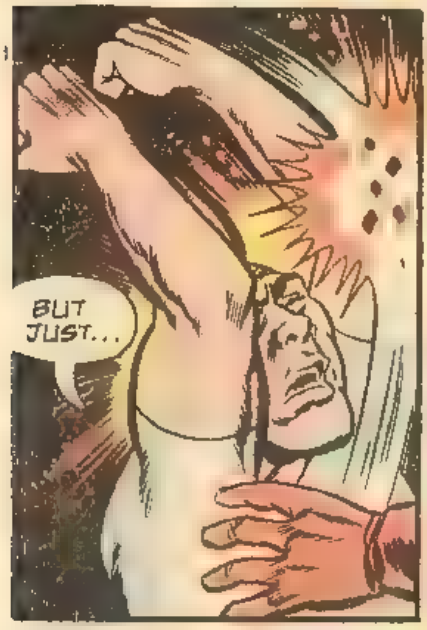
YA SHOULDN'TA DONE THAT, MISTER... THE PROFESSOR SAID HE WANTS TO TALK WITH YA!
HE'S.. BREAKING ...MY... BACK...!
CRRUINNCHH


BUT... NOT GETTING WEAK .. I FEEL...
I'M ONLY DOIN' WHAT THE PROFESSOR SAID..
-- URGH!

STRONGER!
THOK!


BUT JUST...

DOIN... NGG!

CRAK!
WHUT .. THE ..

PROFESSOR SA! ...
SPLASH!

THE POOR IDIOT. THAT'S SOMETHING I OWE PROFESSOR DEATH...
MAKING ME HURT AN IMBICILE LIKE..

WELL, MISTER TARGITT...

WON'T YOU STEP INTO THE CABIN?

GUNS! I'D BETTER COOL IT FOR NOW!

THE GLARE FROM THE LIGHTS DOES NOTHING TO DIMINISH THE SIGHT OR SOUND OF THE MAN BEFORE TARGITT... A MAN HE IS RAPIDLY GROWING TO HATE...

IN A WAY, I ADMIRE YOU, TARGITT!

YOU'RE BRAVE, YOU'RE PERSISTANT, AND YOU'RE NOT WITHOUT INTELLIGENCE!

BY THE SAME TOKEN, YOU'RE A FOOL!

NO ONE BUT A FOOL WOULD DARE ATTACK CHARON'S CHARIOT-- I MEAN MY YACHT!

SO I'M A FOOL! THAT'S MY JOB!

PRECISELY! I'D LIKE TO OFFER YOU ANOTHER JOB, TARGITT! WHEN I FIRST ENCOUNTERED YOU, LAST NIGHT AT TAUMBACH'S, I FELT YOU WERE A THREAT... THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO KILL YOU!

BUT WHEN YOU SURVIVED I REALIZED... A THREAT CAN BECOME AN ALLY...

THIS IS A DEATH'S HEAD. IT CONTAINS 103 GRAMS OF A CERTAIN NERVE GAS.. WHICH I CALL DEATH-13!

SIX MEN STAND IN THE WAY OF MY ASSUMING TOTAL CONTROL OF THE NEW YORK UNDERWORLD--

THESE DEATH'S HEADS WILL REMOVE THOSE MEN.

THAT STRANGE FEELING OF POWER AGAIN...

I'D LIKE YOU TO BE MY MESSENGER, TARGITT.

DOES IT PAY WELL?

VERY WELL!

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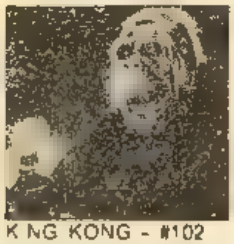

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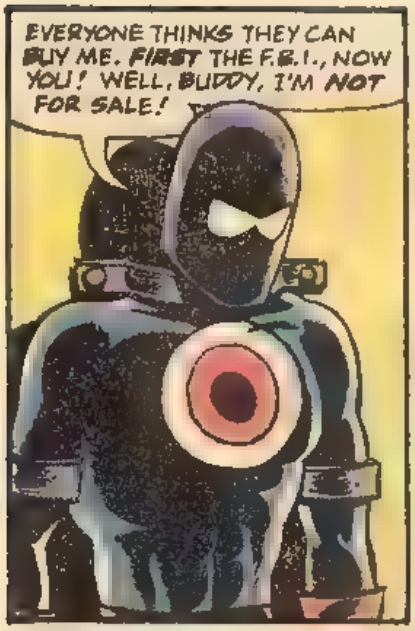
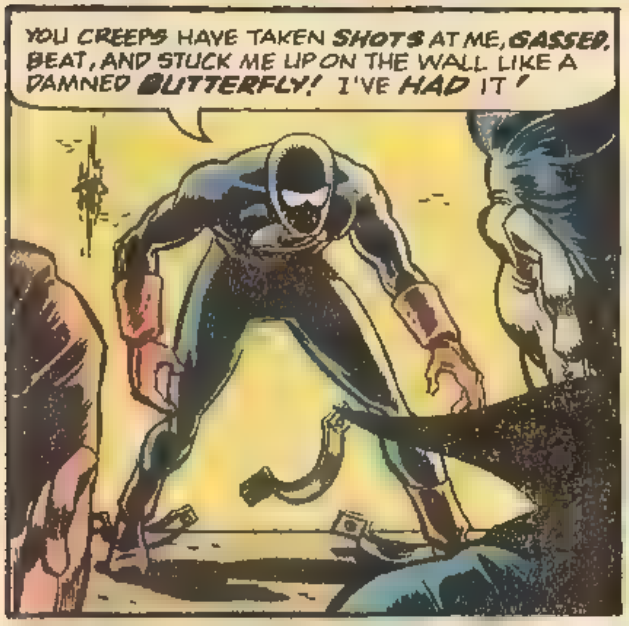
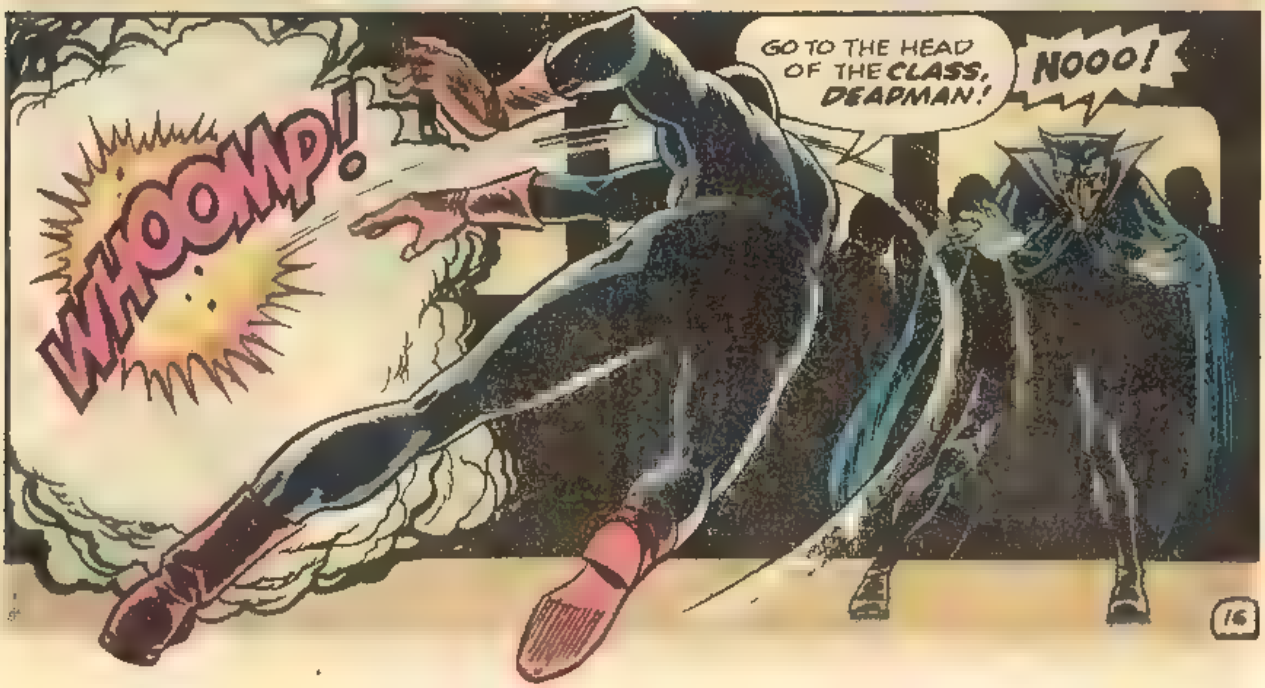

EVERYONE THINKS THEY CAN BUY ME. FIRST THE F.B.I., NOW YOU! WELL, BUDDY, I'M NOT FOR SALE!

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING LOWERED TO THE LEVEL OF THE SCUM I'M FIGHTING!

WELL, NO MORE!
SCRAUNCH!
RRIP
HOLY SMOKE! HE JUST RIPPED THOSE CHAINS OUT OF SOLID OAK!

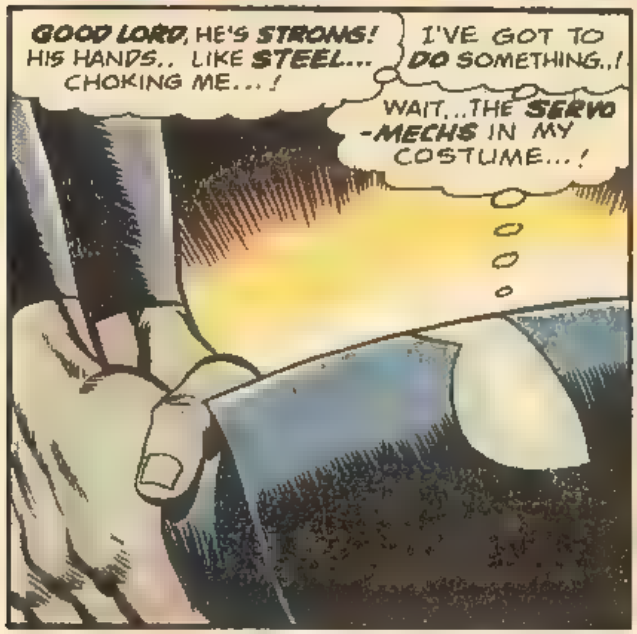

YOU CREEPS HAVE TAKEN SHOTS AT ME, GASSED, BEAT, AND STUCK ME UP ON THE WALL LIKE A DAMNED BUTTERFLY! I'VE HAD IT!

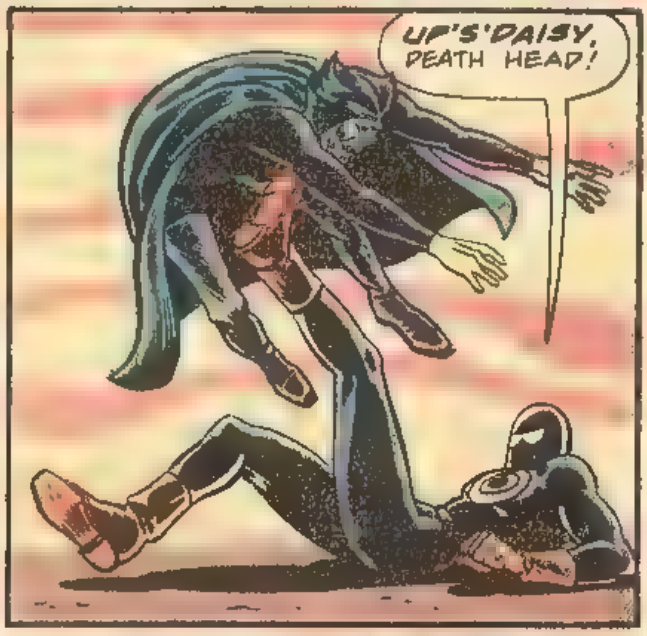
AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT!
LOOK OUT! THAT SKULL SPELLS DEATH!

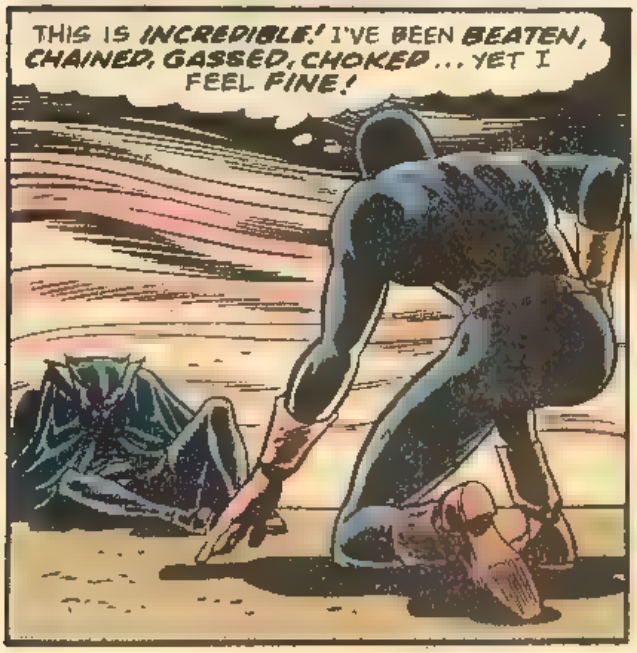

WHOOMP!
GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS, DEADMAN!
NOOO!

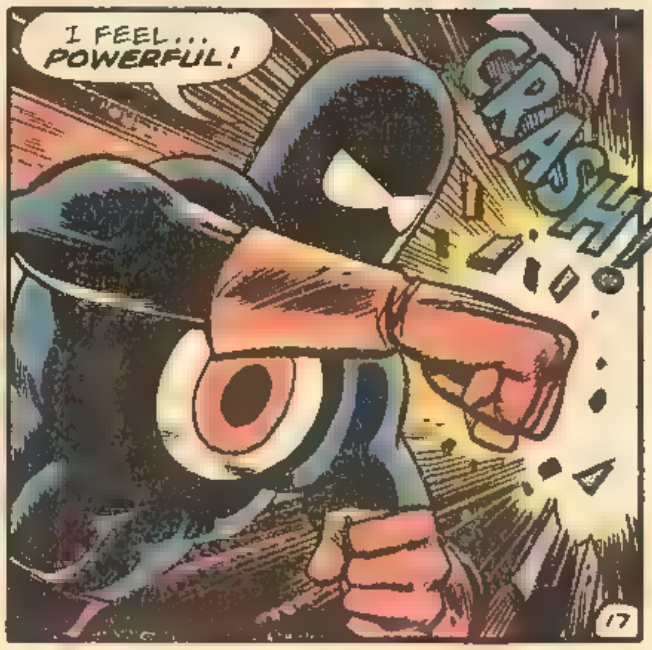
--IT'LL KILL US ALL!
FORGET IT, PROF., IT DIDN'T KILL ME BEFORE, AND IT WON'T NOW! YOU SEE, I'M A MOVING TARGETT, AND IF DEATH WANTS ME...
IT'LL HAVE TO STOP ME FIRST!

YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING! WHY DIDN'T YOU JOIN ME?
WHY? WHY?!!
URGH!


GOOD LORD, HE'S STRONG! HIS HANDS.. LIKE STEEL... CHOKING ME...!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING..!
WAIT...THE SERVO-MECHS IN MY COSTUME...!


UP'S'DAISY, DEATH HEAD!


THIS IS INCREDIBLE! I'VE BEEN BEATEN, CHAINED, GASSED, CHOKED... YET I FEEL FINE!


I FEEL... POWERFUL!
CRASH!

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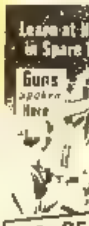

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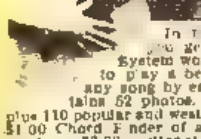

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COUGH! CHOKE!

STOP HIM, YOU FOOLS! :choke: HE'S ESCAPING!

WHO CARES, PROFESSOR, THAT MEANS WE CAN ESCAPE FROM THIS GAS-TRAP TOO! RUN FOR IT, YOU GUYS!

AH, THERE'S THE VIBRATIONS OF THE GENERATOR AND MOTOR! BOY, HAVE THOSE BUMS GOT A SURPRISE COMING!

FORGET IT, FELLOWS! THIS TIME THE RATS WILL GO DOWN WITH THE SHIP!

BOOM!

THE HARBOR IS AS SILENT AS ANY PLACE CAN BE, EARLY ONE NEW YORK MORNING.

ONLY THE SOUND OF FALLING DEBRIS ADDS TO THE CITY'S SYMPHONY.

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I'VE CHANGED... BUT I'M READY! I'LL NEVER AGAIN WAIT FOR EVIL! NO MORE JUST A MOVING TARGET! FOR, TODAY...

THE MAN-STALKER IS BORN!

END

What's Happening With ATLAS

A LETTER FROM **LARRY LIEBER**

They say that in the beginning was the word—but in my case, it was the **PICTURE** . . . for I was an artist before I became a writer.

Then, in 1958, I shifted gears and starting **WORDING** it for Marvel Comics . . . a hot unlikely choice, considering that the editor was my *brother*. Some of you may have heard of him—his name is **STAN LEE.**

In those long ago, halcyon days, Stan plotted and scripted; I scripted; and a fellow named Jack Kirby just drew (about six pages a day).

Among my classic comic endeavors were the first **THOR**, the first **IRON MAN**, and the first **ANT MAN**. Thus, I gave to the world the name *Henry Pym* and a hammer called *Uru*. In return, the world gave me a chance to work with some of the most talented people in this industry . . . and none more so than Stan, himself (who taught me that *dialogue* is more important than *captions*, and *pay vouchers* are more important than either).

Then, for some forgettable reason, I left the world of superheroes and went **WEST**, young man . . . where I *plotted, scripted*, and *pencilled* **THE RAWHIDE KID** for a half-dozen years, pausing only to limn two **SPIDER-MAN ANNUALS**—which were aptly named, considering how *long* I took to limn them.

After *that* tour of duty, I reentered the twentieth century and pencilled some of Marvel's mightiest covers . . .

. . . until coming to work for **ATLAS**, where I now sit on the other side of the desk, breathing editorial life into this new major comics company.

But I'm lucky. Though the names have changed, the talent remains undiminished—as you'll discover for yourself when you read stories and view artwork by writers like **GARY FRIEDRICH** and illustrators such as **FRANK THORNE.**

I also have the good fortune to be employed by a publisher who's unafraid to roll up his sleeves. His name is **CHIP GOODMAN**, and for you aficionados of historical data, his *father* founded Marvel Comics way back when.

Last, but not least, I have an able editorial assistant, **DAVID KRAFT**, about whom you'll certainly be hearing more.

And now, to the overdue point of all this. Every comics company in this industry wants to give you, the reader, the **BEST WRITTEN** and **BEST ILLUSTRATED** stories possible. Here at **ATLAS**, our intent is no less.

LARRY LIEBER
Editor

And just to prove we're not whistling in the dark when we say that **ATLAS** is where it's at, here's what we have up our editorial sleeves (besides our elbows)!

To begin with, *you* know and *we* know that the **ATLAS** line is like a gem in the rough, subject to continuing refinement until it achieves the finish and shine of a polished jewel. More specifically, that means we're working hard at improving our present titles, trying new directions, and expanding our horizons with fresh ideas and concepts.

In other words, we're experimenting with the tried and true, as well as the new. And, to relieve your unbearable suspense, here are some of those exciting items. Let's begin with the new ones.

By now, you've seen the first issue of **THE BARBARIANS**, a sword-and-sorcery stew of savage worlds and even *more* savage men. *Ironjaw* and *Andrax* shared the debut issue; but waiting in the wings for #2 is *Wulf the Barbarian*—and just wait'll you see what all-new high-action hero is waiting in the wings for the *third issue* of **THE BARBARIANS!** It will be fantasy adventure at its finest!

For your delectation, we also have **HANDS OF THE DRAGON**, a martial arts effort with a difference (and for a mere 25¢, you'll discover what that difference is). It's chronicled by *Ed Fedory* and our dashing new discovery from Canada, *Jim Craig*. By now you've seen *Jim*'s exciting artwork on **THE SCORPION**, and since his enthusiasm is equaled by stamina and greed, he'll also be illustrating **WULF THE BARBARIAN**, with *Mike Friedrich* scripting (they start with #4).

But those aren't the *only* surprises in store for you—not by a long shot! Coming up are not *one*, but *two* new books by *Rich Buckler* and *David Kraft*. Immediately following his premiere appearance in **TALES OF EVIL** #3, the **MAN-MONSTER** goes wild in his *own* bi-monthly magazine; and, on opposite months, you can pick up **DEMON-HUNTER**, destined to be one of the most action-packed quasi-superhero strips in the awesome age of **ATLAS.** Don't miss his *origin* in the epic collectors' item first issue!

But even *that's* not all. We've been saving the *best* for last—it's **SON OF DRACULA** by *Gary Friedrich* and *Frank Thorne*. Words can't do it justice. But *you* can do yourself a favor and pick up the first breathtaking issue; it's a *twist* on anything you might expect!

There's just enough room now to touch on some of the *changes* to watch for in current and upcoming issues of comics such as **MORLOCK 2001 & THE MIDNIGHT MEN** (the title ought to give you a hint, cause we're not going to say much more, other than that #3 is presented by the team of *Gary Friedrich, Steve Ditko* and *Berni Wrightson*).

And then there's **THE PHOENIX**, gaining "wings" and a new direction with the fourth issue, under the guidance of *Gary F.* and (hopefully) *Jack Abel*. Also in the department of new directions, "Plague of Blood" in **PLANET OF VAMPIRES #3** by *Russ Heath* and *John Albano*—sets the scenario for horrors to come.

While we're at it, we'll remind you not to miss **TIGER-MAN #3** and **THE DESTRUCTOR #4**, both by that peerless pair, *Gerry Conway* and *Steve Ditko*. Of course, **IRONJAW** and **THE BRUTE** will be forging new standards of excellence, helmed by our prolific *Gary Friedrich*, and *Pablo Marcos* (after an art fill-in on the third issue of the latter by *Al Weiss*). Okay, enough is *enough*—we can tell when we've wog-boggled you sufficiently for this issue. But don't go away, because there'll be lots *more* news next time—all of it good, if we can help it!

In the meantime, read up and let us know what *you* think about **ATLAS.** Write to the letter columns. We're depending on you to let us know what you like.

And remember: If it's amazing, astonishing, adventurous—it's **ATLAS!**

LETTERS ON TARGITT!

SEND ALL LETTERS TO ATLAS COMICS C/O SEABOARD PERIODICALS, 717 5TH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Dear **ATLAS**:

I have purchased all but two of your comics, and I must tell you that **TARGITT** is your best effort to date. I think he is just great.

He is without a doubt the most refreshing comic character since Spiderman; and is likely to surpass the webslinger as the most popular comic character in the industry.

One is tempted to compare the great (or, soon to be) **TARGITT** with Eisner's Spirit. *Nostrand*, like Eisner, makes effective use of dark shadows, dynamic camera angles, and has a flair for drawing really attractive women. Yet the Spirit embodied the 1940s in that he stood for the virtues of the radio, pulp, and comic heroes of the era. *Targitt* not only lacks those virtues, (don't we all?), but seems more cynical and impatient than Denny Colt (the Spirit). In other words, *Targitt* is most representative of the chaotic ways of our times. That's why he'll succeed.

Another thing that makes *Targitt* such a great character is that he doesn't live by comicdom's Golden Rule for heroes: "Always be a nice guy." To be sure, all of **ATLAS**' characters have broken with comic tradition to a greater or lesser extent—but **TARGITT** is easily the best creation.

STEVE LAMBY
Mogadore, OH

What makes us so excited over TARGITT, Steve, is that he *is* so "today." And judging from the tremendous mail response, ATLAS fans agree overwhelmingly.

Dear **ATLAS**:

First of all, I want to congratulate you on a relatively solid debut. I have purchased every one of your new comic-book titles, as well as most of the black-and-white magazines. My favorites so far have been **THE PHOENIX**, and **PLANET OF VAMPIRES**. Please continue these fine titles.

Now we come to the bad part of the letter. As terrible as the pre-Code comics were, I feel that not one is as abominable as **TARGITT**. First off, the mag couldn't have been more derivative—you might as well have called it "Deathwish."

What I object to is not that it was "stolen" from the movies, but that it was so brutal. It seems you have given *John Targitt* tacit approval to take the law into his own hands. As such, the mag is a paean to lynch law. Really, the hero is to be pitied instead of glorified. The worst thing I can say about **TARGITT** is that it is unconstitutional; it is an abuse of the comic art, and goes against all the rules of the Comic Code.

I wish you luck with all your other titles (even the insipid **LOMAX**), but I hope **TARGITT** bombs out. Really.

LARRY A. MILLER
Fontana, CA

Sorry we've offended you, Larry. This may come as a complete surprise to you (a pleasant one, too, we think), but we feel, as *Targitt* learns in this issue, that the gun is not the answer.

However, we cannot disregard the events in *John Targitt*'s life, which have shaped his personality. He was burnt once too often by the inhumanity that sometimes plagues government institutions; and by the brutal, vicious deaths of his wife and daughter at the hands of the mob. Because of this, he understandably trusts no one.

And so, *Targitt* had to find the superhero in himself—with a little help from *Gerry Conway* and ye olde editor, *Larry*.

And, by the way, if you'd like to see *Gerry* doing his thing with a couple of super-powered heroes, take a look at this month's TIGER-MAN, and the PHOENIX!

Gentlemen on **TARGITT**:

I just finished reading **TARGITT**. It was OK—at least, the story was. But *Nostrand*'s art was blah. I think he has an identity crisis. Sometimes he thinks he's Will Eisner and sometimes he thinks he's George Tuska. And another thing is backgrounds, or the lack of them—I hate comix with little or no background art.

Another thing, who wrote the darn story? I know *Nostrand*'s art, but you guys are playing it too cool by not spelling it out as to who did what.

DICK VETNER
Hartford, CN

Sorry to confuse you, Dickie—from now on we'll try and make everything "perfectly clear." The story was written by *Ric Meyers*.

Dear **ATLAS**:

I think your new mag, **TARGITT**, is a winner. It seems you are competing more with **MGM** than with Marvel. **THE BRUTE** is like "Trog," and **MORLOCK 2001** is like "Farenheit 451." Now **TARGITT** comes out, and it's like "Bullitt," down to the two T's.

I'm not knocking you. I think the movies are the best art form to ever hit the world, and borrowing from a few of them isn't a bad idea. Good luck, **ATLAS**.

DEE DEE SHANKLIN
Dover, NH

Needless to say, comics and cinema are closely related art forms. For years, comics have borrowed cinematic film techniques, and vice versa. Now ATLAS has carried the relationship a step further, by employing cinematic ideas for the comic medium. Let us know what you think —all of you!

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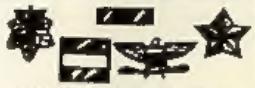

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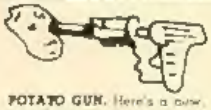

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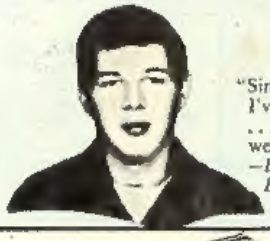

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